UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAMS PROCESSED PRODUCTS BRANCH

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF COLOR STANDARDS FOR MAPLE SIRUP

The Processed Products Branch (PPB), Fruit and Vegetable Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hereby notifies the food industry and other interested parties of the availability of the newly issued USDA color standards for classifying color on the basis of the United States Standards for Grades of Maple Sirup. The new plastic USDA color standards were issued September 26, 2003, to PPB field offices for use in grading maple sirup and replace the glass color standards distributed in May 1956. The USDA color standards are commercially available from:

Gretag Macbeth, Munsell Color 617 Little Britain Road New Windsor, NY 12553-6148

Tel.: (800) 622-2384 or (914) 565-7660,

Fax: (914) 561-0267

Website: http://usa.gretagmacbethstore.com/

For further information about these and other USDA color standards, please contact the Processed Products Branch at (202) 720-4693.

Terry B. Bane Branch Chief

Distribution – Special Agriculture-Washington